

***SUTERA PLANT NAMED 'SUTHARIS'***

**Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed**

5    *Sutera diffusa*

**Varietal denomination**

‘Sutharis’

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**Background of the new plant**

The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of *Sutera*, botanically known as *Sutera diffusa*. The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the cross 15 of ‘B21’ and ‘B23’. ‘B21’ is a lavenderblue flowering *Sutera* having a spreading, trailing habit. ‘B21’ is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. ‘B23’ is a white flowering *Sutera* having a larger than normal flower. ‘B23’ is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. Neither ‘B21’ or ‘B23’ has been patented. As a result of this cross the present cultivar was created in 2000 in 20 Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and Sarrians, France over a three year period. It has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations, and this novelty appears to be firmly fixed.

This new *Sutera* plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 9 25 and 10 it is a perennial plant.

**Description of the drawing**

This new *Sutera* plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which 30 shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

### Data collection

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new *Sutera*. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual 5 reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 15 weeks old plants, blossomed under natural light in a greenhouse. Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily to the RHS Color Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society of London.

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### Summary of the invention

Plants of the cultivar 'Sutharis' have not been observed under all possible 15 environmental concitions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature, light intensity and daylength without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Sutharis'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Sutharis' as a new and distinct variety:

- 20 1. Large, lavender, round flowers
2. Early flowering
3. Thick stems and large leaves
4. Spreading, trailing habit

25 Plants of the new *Sutera* differ from plants of the parent selections in flowercolor as plants of the female parent 'B21' are much darker in color and plants of the male parent 'B23' are white in color. Also the female parent has thin stems and smaller leaves and the male parent is much later to flower.

Plants of the new *Sutera* can be compared to plants of the *Sutera* variety 'Lavender 30 Showers', disclosed in U.S. Plant Patent application Ser. No. 09/450,098. In side by side comparisons conducted in Enkhuizen, The Netherlands, plants of the new *Sutera* differed from plants of the variety 'Lavender Showers' primarily in size of the flowers

and in thickness of the stems, as plants of 'Sutharis' have larger flowers and thicker stems.

### Description of the new cultivar

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#### The Plant

	Classification - Botanical	:	<i>Sutera diffusa</i>
10	Parentage - Female parent	:	A seedling named 'B21' is one of our seedlings from our B-generation of plants bred in 1999
	- Pollen parent	:	A seedling named 'B23' is one of our seedlings from our B-generation of plants bred in 1999.
15	Growth habit	:	Trailing
	Plant height	:	10 - 18 cm
	Spreading area of plant	:	38 - 48 cm
	Growth rate	:	Rapid growing
	Strength	:	Good
20	Branching habit	:	Short internodes and on each knot more than two appearing shoots give a plant that is more branched than normal.
	Blooming period	:	From May till November

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#### The stem

	Diameter	:	2 - 3 mm
	Shape	:	Cylindrical
30	Anthocyan pigmentation	:	Absent
	Color of the stem	:	137C
	Length of internode	:	10 - 30 mm, depending on the light where the plant is

propagated  
 Pubescence : Sparse

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**The Foliage**

Phyllotaxis : Opposite  
 Shape of blade : Ovate  
 Shape of blade base : Acute  
 10 Shape of blade tip : Truncate  
 Leaf margin : Dentate  
 Venation : Pinnate  
 Texture      Upper surface : Smooth, glabrous  
                  Lower surface : Pubescent  
 15 Length : 15 - 25 mm  
 Width : 18 - 26 mm  
 Thickness : 1 - 2 mm  
 Depth of incision : 1 - 2 mm  
 Color      - Upper side : 147A  
 20            - Lower side : 147B  
 Length of petiole : 2 mm  
 Diameter of petiole : 1 mm  
 Color of petiole : 137B  
 Fragrance : Musk

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**The Bud**

Pedicel length : 8 - 20 mm, depending on season  
 Size      - Diameter : 2 mm  
 30            - Length : 4 - 8 mm  
 Shape : Obovate  
 Color : 147B  
 Sepals      - Colour : 147B

- Shape	:	Erect calyx
- Number	:	5
- Size	:	2 mm

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**The Flower**

Direction	:	Ascending
Outward curvation of petal	:	Medium curved
Diameter	:	15 – 19 mm
10 Tube length	:	10 - 16 mm
Throat diameter, distal end	:	2 – 3 mm
Tube diameter, proximal end	:	1.5 – 2.5 mm
Form	:	Salverform
Symmetry	:	Radial symmetric
15 Type	:	Solitary, axillary
Color	- Upper surface	: 85B
	- Lower surface	: 85B
Corolla tube	:	Cylindrical
Overlapping of petals	:	Separate
20 No. of petals	:	5
Shape of the petals	:	Gamopetalous, grown together at the base of the
		petal, forming a corolla.
Petal lobe	- Length	: 4 - 7 mm
25	- Width	: 3 - 5 mm
	- Shape	: Spathulate
	- Apex	: Rounded
	- Margin	: Entire
	- Texture	: Smooth
30 Shape of sepals	:	Gamopetalous, grown together at the base of the sepal.
Calyx	- Length	: 6 - 8 mm
	- Diameter	: 3 mm

	- Shape	:	Narrow, linear	
	- Apex	:	Acute	
	- Margin	:	Entire	
	Texture of the calyx	- Upper surface	:	Pubescent
5		- Lower surface	:	Pubescent
	Color of the calyx	- Upper surface	:	137B
		- Lower surface	:	137C
	Anthocyan pigmentation of Calyx limb	:	Absent	
	Peduncle	- Length	:	5 mm
10		- Width	:	Less than 1 mm
		- Angle	:	About 60. degree from the stem
		- Texture	:	Smooth
		- Color	:	137 B
	Fragrance		:	No fragrance detected
15	Lastingness of flower		:	Flowers stay open 8 – 10 days

### Reproductive organs

20	Number of reproductive organs	:	1 pistil, 4 stamens
	Pollenproduction	:	Very low
	Stigma color	:	Light green 138D
	Stamen color	:	Yellow 13A
	Stamen arrangement	:	Didynamous
25	Stamen type	:	Basifixed
	Dehiscence of stamens	:	Extrorse
	Ovary position	:	Ovary superior, flower hypogynous
	Style shape	:	Style terete
	Style length	:	5 mm
30	Pistil length	:	8 mm

### **Seeds**

Only few seeds are formed, almost sterile plant.

5 Few seeds that occur are light yellow 13 B, small, round, diameter approx. 0.1 mm

### **Roots**

10 Type of roots : Fibrous. Roots start to grow at the nodes that contact the soil.

### **Physiological and ecological characteristics**

Good tolerance to heat and cold.

15 High resistance to lice and whitefly.

### **Propagation**

Propagation is done by cuttings

20 Tips of stems are used, which take 6 days to initiate roots and 12 days to develop roots.